

Ask clarifying questions to try to understand the basis for a view you disagree with. Explain the rationale for your views clearly and actively listen to others' perspectives.

Try to find a way forward that accommodates everybody's views rather than just argue your case.

There are times when consensus cannot be reached on an issue. That is fine, as long as an honest debate was had. In this case, the majority rules. If you are in the minority on an issue, accept it and move on.

Individual board members may want an item discussed by the board. The best route to get that discussed is to bring it to the attention of the Board President, who with the Vice President and Superintendent /President is responsible for setting agendas (BP2210 Officers of the Board). Ideally that should be done, initially outside of a Board meeting, however, if an issue arises during the board meeting the President will take the issue and discuss it during normal board agenda development. If a Board member's item is not satisfactorily addressed the board member can place items on the agenda by verbal request at the previous board meeting or by submitting a written summary of the item to the superintendent/president at least one week prior to the regularly scheduled board meeting. This would normally only be done as a last resort. (BP2340 agendas)

Apart from the regular board meetings the board holds workshops where a deeper dive can be taken into major subjects of interest. Also, the board president can appoint ad hoc committees to work on specific defined topics or board liaisons to understand more fully specific topics.

D. Basing all decisions on all the available facts in each situation, voting with honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias, and upholding and abiding by the final majority decision of the board.

Many board members belong to, or were supported by, outside organizations that have views they want you to pursue. You should remember you are representing the best interests of MiraCosta as a whole and not of the outside organization. Similarly, you may have strong personal views on issues. You should always remember to do what is best for the college.

If a decision goes against your view, don't bad mouth the decision. If asked, give the rationale for the decision.

The board may be asked to approve a resolution supporting a particular issue. This will typically occur when:

- it is requested by a Regional, State or National Community College organization
- it is in response to a specific event that is directly relevant to the college

E. Remembering at all times that no member of the board has any legal authority outside the meetings of the board and that each member will conduct relationships with college staff, students, the local citizenry, and the media on that basis.